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October 22, 2007 - Puppeteer RONNIE BURKETT at Place des Arts Cinquième Salle Starting November 8!

"Breathtaking! Mr. Burkett takes us into a world with marionettes that you'd swear are human. Amazing work." — CBC Radio, Toronto

Montreal, October 22, 2007 – One of Canada's foremost theatre artists, puppeteer Ronnie Burkett, brings his latest work, *10 Days on Earth* (presented in English) to the **Cinquième Salle** of **Place des Arts** from **November 8 to 10** and **13 to 17**. Moving and profoundly human, this "adult fable" is a brilliant performance and a remarkable *tour de force*, with Mr. Burkett serving as the production's author, designer and sole actor.

Darrel is a middle-aged intellectually challenged man who lives with his mother. When she dies in her sleep, Darrel does not realize she is gone and so, for 10 days, he lives alone. Tandem to Darrel's day-to-day routine are the adventures of his favourite children's book characters, Honeydog and Little Burp. Their search for a home leads the dog-and-duck duo to an understanding of family, while Darrel's ease in the world illustrates just how his mother has paved the path for him to live without her. Episodes from the past, like faded colour snapshots from a family album, illustrate a mother's love for her son in all its honesty and fierce, unwavering will.

Simple, tender, funny and unapologetic, *10 Days on Earth* asks: **If you were alone but didn't know it, would you feel lonely?** Mr. Burkett moves from character to character, brilliantly playing by turns Darrel and his mother at nine different stages of their lives, breathing life into the dozens of puppets that he designed and manipulates — puppets that live, laugh, sing ... and die.

"This is an immensely moving production, achingly sad, real and suffused with melancholy. Ronnie Burkett — what an actor; what a writer." — Edmonton Sun

Hailed as "one of the world's geniuses" by the *Village Voice*, Alberta-born Mr. Burkett became interested in puppets at a young age. Founded in 1986, Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes primarily addresses an adult audience. With his unique performances, whose innovative character has garnered him international renown, his sublime puppets — works of art in themselves — and his impressive theatrical and technical prowess, Mr. Burkett has generated a keen interest in adult puppet theatre.

Since its creation at CanStage in Toronto in April 2006, *10 Days on Earth* has been staged 175 times across Canada

and around the world, including in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Austria. Montreal is the final stop in this remarkable tour. Ronnie Burkett's Place des Arts stopover is an opportunity to discover the multifaceted talents of a consummate artist.

10 Days on Earth (presented in English — ages 14 and over)

2008-03804/

Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes November 8 to 10 and 13 to 17, 2007 at 8 p.m.
Cinquième Salle, Place des Arts, 175 Sainte-Catherine Street West

Admission: \$25; students \$15 (taxes and service charges included)

Information and reservations: Place des Arts box office, 514.842.2112 – 1.866.842.2112 – laplacedesarts.com

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